

Email : BLM Survey Manual ReWrite Update
To : Bob Dahl
From : Timothy A Kent
10/22/02 04:39 PM

What is your status about making a presentation, 1 hour or so, to various groups concerning the above subject? Scheduling for the spring conferences is ongoing so if this fits with your plans, we need to get this on the agendas soon. Let me know.

Thanks.

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Email: Regarding Outreach for New Edition of the DOI/BLM Manual of Surveying Instructions
To : Timothy A. Kent
From : Robert W Dahl
10/29/2002 10:33 AM

A "Cadastral Survey" creates (or reestablishes), marks, and defines boundaries of tracts of land, all subject to approval of the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

Tim,
I believe it is important that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inform the affected entities and individuals that a new edition of the Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States (Manual) will be issued. The Manual describes how cadastral surveys of the public lands are made in conformance to statutory law and its judicial interpretation. The earliest rules governing the survey of the public lands were issued in manuscript, and in printed circulars dating from 1785. Previous editions of the Manual were issued in 1855, 1881, 1890, 1894, 1902, 1930, and 1947, with the current edition issued in 1973.

The Manuals of Surveying Instructions have been revised with a view of harmonizing the printed instructions with current legislation, judicial and administrative decisions, and current surveying practice. Since 1973, much has happened in law and policy in defining boundaries of the public lands. Although the laws, policies and controlling cases are public, there is no system for their compilation, therefore they are not readily available to practitioners. The new edition of the Manual will include a discussion of the law and policies of surveying and boundaries as they have developed since 1973.

The Manual is of interest to county and local surveyors, attorneys, title insurance company personnel, real estate agents, and others who have professional interests in former or current public lands. Thirty States have been created out of the public domain. All Indian lands are to be surveyed as nearly as may be in conformity to the rules and regulations under which other public lands are surveyed. It is important to remember that in all cases where no public lands are involved, the methods and explanations of the BLM must be regarded as advisory only, as the BLM is without jurisdiction unless Federal or Indian lands are involved.

By Spring of 2003 I will be advanced enough in the development of the new edition of the Manual to give presentations on the process and issues facing the BLM. Your informing affected governmental entities and professional groups would be helpful with BLM's outreach on this matter of important public policy. Until you receive further contact information regarding the BLM's process and issuance of the new edition of the Manual, interested parties can contact me by using the information below.

Thank you,

Robert W. (Bob) Dahl
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